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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,590	02/02/2001	Charilaos Christopoulos	040000-654	6242

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EXAMINER

BELIVEAU, SCOTT E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/773,590	Applicant(s) CHRISTOPOULOS ET AL.	
	Examiner Scott Beliveau	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 18-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claim 18, drawn to a method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying a quantization factor, classified in class 375, subclass 240.01+.
 - II. Claim 19, drawn to a method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying image cropping, classified in class 375, subclass 240.01+.
 - III. Claim 20, drawn to a method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying a bandwidth range, classified in class 375, subclass 240.01+.
 - IV. Claim 21, drawn to a method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying computational complexity, classified in class 375, subclass 240.01+.
 - V. Claim 22, drawn to a method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying a quality range, classified in class 375, subclass 240.01+.
 - VI. Claim 23, drawn to a method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying motion vector predictors, classified in class 375, subclass 240.01+.
 - VII. Claim 24, drawn to a method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying the frame rate resolution, classified in class 375, subclass 240.01+.
 - VIII. Claim 25, drawn to a method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying video mixing, classified in class 375, subclass 240.01+.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II-VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to

be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as the ability to utilize transcoder hints as to the quantization factor. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions II and I and III-VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as the ability to utilize transcoder hints specifying image cropping specifications. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and I, II, and IV-VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as the ability to utilize transcoder hints to indicate the bandwidth range. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IV and I-III and V-VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as the ability to utilize transcoder hints including the computational complexity of the encoding. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions V and I-IV and VII-VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention V has separate utility such as the ability to utilize transcoder hints indicating the quality range to be performed. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VI and I-V, VII, and VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention VI has separate utility such as the ability to utilize transcoder hints including motion vector predictors. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and I-VI and VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention VII has separate utility such as the ability to utilize transcoder hints specifying the frame rate reduction to be utilized. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and I -VII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention VIII has separate utility such as the ability to utilize transcoder using hints specifying video mixing instructions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for each of the distinctive elements associated with each of the respective aforementioned groups is not required for the distinctive elements of the other groups restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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5. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Species 1 – Claim 18: Method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying a quantization factor.
- Species 2 – Claim 19: Method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying image cropping.
- Species 3 – Claim 20: Method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying a bandwidth range.
- Species 4 – Claim 21: Method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying computational complexity.
- Species 5 – Claim 22: Method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying a quality range.
- Species 6 – Claim 23: Method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying motion vector predictors.
- Species 7 – Claim 24: Method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying the frame rate resolution.
- Species 8 – Claim 25: Method for converting multimedia using transcoding hints specifying video mixing.

6. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are generic.

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Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species.

MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).
8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

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application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Beliveau whose telephone number is 571-272-7343. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SEB

April 5, 2005